



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES EUROPE
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES AFRICA
PSC 809 BOX 70
FPO AE 09626-0070

5720
Ser N02/028
2 Nov 17

Kevin Knodell
6226 S Prospect Way
Tacoma, WA 98409

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS (DON-NAVY-2017-008880)

Dear Mr. Knodell:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated July 15, 2017, wherein you requested "copies of any records relating to the activities of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa's CTF 63 in assisting West African authorities tracking the suspected pirate vessel M/T Maximus during 12-14 February 2016." Your request was referred by AFRICOM Headquarters and was received by this office on July 24, 2017 for processing under FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552. It has been assigned FOIA File Number DON-NAVY-2017-008880.

Pursuant to your request, your responsive documents are released as enclosure (1). However, during our review of the requested documents, we discovered that some of the information contained therein is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552. An analysis of these exemptions follows:

5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (1) protects national defense or foreign policy information properly classified pursuant an Executive Order.

5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (6) protects personal data, such as names, social security numbers, and other Privacy Act protected information, the dissemination of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (7) (e) protects from disclosure information which would reveal techniques and procedures or guidelines for law enforcement investigations if disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law.

Due to the total number of pages and your association with news media, all chargeable fees are waived in accordance with policy set forth in the Fee Schedule, DoD 5400.7-R.

Because particular information has been withheld under 5 U.S.C. § 552, you are advised of your right to appeal the adequacy of the search in writing to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, Code 14, 1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066.

Any appeal received within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter is to be considered, and a copy of this letter should be attached along with a statement regarding why

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS (DON-NAVY-2017-008880)

your appeal should be granted. It is recommended that the letter of appeal and the envelope both bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

My point of contact in this matter is Petty Officer First Class Jean Yusten, U.S. Navy. Please do not hesitate to contact her if you have any further questions regarding this matter. She may be reached at 011-39-081-568-4285 or jean.yusten@eu.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D. W. Dwyer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D. W. DWYER
RDML USN
Chief of Staff

Enclosure (1): Responsive documents – redacted



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Case Study: M/T MAXIMUS

- On 11 Feb, the M/T MAXIMUS was attacked by an unknown number of pirates from a (b) (7)(E) who was in the vicinity since 8 Feb
- From 12 to 14 Feb, the USNS SPEARHEAD, tracked the captured M/T MAXIMUS until handing it off to Ghanaian Naval Forces
- Using International Maritime Broadcast (IMB), continuous data on the M/T MAXIMUS was provided to Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria

(b) (7)(E)

USNS SPEARHEAD in Duoala, Cameroon.



Attacked vessel, Motor Transport (M/T) MAXIMUS



The hijacking of the product tanker MAXIMUS and the tracks of the pirate support vessels between 8 and 19 February 2016 (Source: MaRisk by Risk Intelligence).



6 Captured and 1 Dead Nigerian Pirates from the M/T Maximus (Source: UK Daily Mail)

- Nigeria tracked the M/T MAXIMUS into Sao Tome & Principe waters. The Nigerian Special Boat Team rescued the 16 hostages on the night of 19 Feb after 8 hours of negotiations with the pirates
- 2 hostages were not recovered, pirates escape with them on M/V Dejikon (another captured vessel) and 1 pirate died in the re-taking of the M/T MAXIMUS



The rescue of the M/T MAXIMUS was the 3rd case in Feb 2016 for the Nigerian Navy

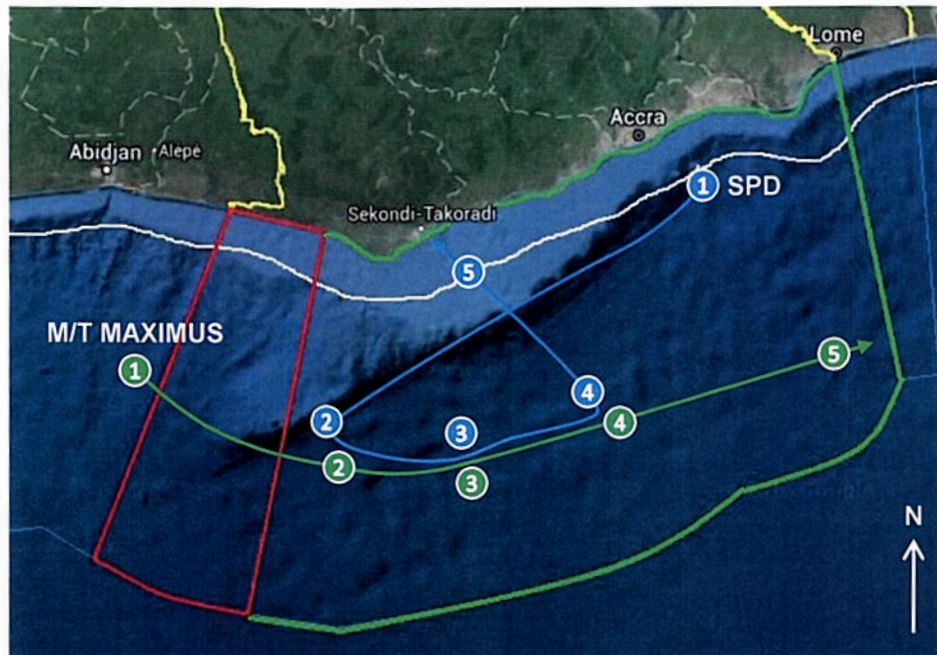
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M/T MAXIMUS Piracy Case in Gulf of Guinea USNS SPEARHEAD

12-14 FEB 2016



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

CTF 63 received notification that the Motor Tanker (M/T) MAXIMUS had been pirated off Cote d'Ivoire. Ghana Navy requested SPEARHEAD (SPD) respond.

- 1 121312Z FEB 16: SPD directed to locate M/T MAXIMUS. Ghana's Joint Fisheries Enforcement Unit coord w/ Ghana Navy for interagency response.
- 2 130047Z FEB 16: SPD intercepted M/T MAXIMUS and shadowed overnight (b) (7)(E). Without warning, M/T MAXIMUS came to all stop for 30 minutes before continuing to motor at 6kts on course toward Nigeria.
- 3 131230Z FEB 16: At 3.02NM CPA to M/T MAXIMUS, SPD attempted Visual ID (VID) which confirmed vessel characteristics to open source photo with high probability. Ghana Navy sortied two patrol vessels to track vessel.
- 4 140037Z FEB 16: SPD left scene to complete AMLEP events ashore, cuing turned over to Ghana naval vessels.
- 5 140940Z FEB 16: Ghana Navy patrol vessel on scene with M/T MAXIMUS, queried vessel and found pirates changed vsl name to "ELVINS 5". (b) (7)(E)



M/T MAXIMUS
Open Source Photo

(b) (7)(E)

Tasked in support of AMLEP's Operation JUNCTION RAIN, SPD was requested by the Ghana Navy to find and intercept M/T MAXIMUS, hijacked 112000ZFEB16 by six pirates 76NM south of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The pirates intend to siphon off the vessel's cargo of refined petroleum to another vessel at sea. M/T MAXIMUS has a crew of 18, 13 of which are in the ship's citadel (safe room) with the remaining five crew held by pirates.

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Participating Forces: Ghana Navy, Marine Police, Joint Fisheries Enforcement Unit (JFEU), USCG LEDET, USN personnel embarked on USNS SPEARHEAD (T-EPF-1).

Sequence of events:

09 Feb (b) (7)(E) info on a potential pirate vessel transiting west through the Ghanaian EEZ enroute to Abidjan, Cote Divoire (b) (7)(E)

09-10 Feb SPD (b) (7)(E) attempted to locate the (b) (7)(E) while it was transiting west through the Ghanaian EEZ with NEGRES.

11 Feb (b) (7)(E) the suspect pirate vessel (b) (7)(E) was loitering south of the port of Abidjan, Cote Divoire setting up to attack a vessel in vicinity of the port.

12 Feb (b) (7)(E) the suspect pirate vessel (b) (7)(E) attacked the M/T Maximus 11 Feb at 2000z, 76 NM South of Abidjan. (b) (7)(E) confirmed the presence of pirates onboard the MT MAXIMUS and state the pirates are trying to sail back to Nigeria. 15 crew safe in citadel room, five crew did not make it to the citadel room.

12 Feb 1130Z SPD tasked by 6th Fleet to locate and track the M/T Maximus.

12 Feb 2300Z based on dead reckoning and positions passed by the (b) (7)(E), SPD sighted what it believed to be M/T Maximus on radar (b) (7)(E)

13 Feb 1000Z closed (b) (7)(E) of M/T Maximus in order to visually ID. Unable to confirm ship name due to distance and haze. Able to confirm ship matched description in photos. High confidence that vsl was M/T Maximus.

13 Feb Tracked M/T Maximus and passed position to Ghana WNC and ENC MOCs. Ghanaian navy vsl Naa Gbewaa enroute to relieve SPD of vsl escort.

13 Feb SPD departed scene for port call and turned over vsl escort to Ghana Navy vsl Naa Gbewaa.

14 Feb Naa Gbewaa on scene with M/T Maximus and intends to query and escort vessel through Ghana EEZ for handoff to Togo Navy at EEZ boundary.

***This case highlights the successful communications between Cote Divoire, Ghana, and Togo Embassys/MOCs as well as coordination with their Navy and USNS Spearhead. (b) (7)(E) attempted to coordinate an interdiction prior to the pirate attack with Ghana and Togo navies. Once the pirate attack, communication flowed through all MOCs and underway assets that allowed accurate tracking and successful handoff of the vessel.

Observations/Lessons Learned:

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- AFRICOM and NAVAF has worked with Ghana since 2014 by utilizing a USCG Law Enforcement Detachment aboard a U.S. Naval vessel to support an embarked Ghana law enforcement detachment.
- Ghana continues to demonstrate capability improvements as witnessed over these three years of operations.
- Operational results always vary due to external factors of weather and maritime activity.

The following are the historical results to date:

- (2014) Four boardings were conducted w/ seven fisheries violations noted on three of the boardings.
- (2015) Six boardings were conducted w/ six fisheries violations noted on three of the boardings.
- (2016) Two boarding conducted to date w/ one fisheries violation noted on one of the boardings.
- Ghana has credited AMLEP/OJR with preparing their teams that supported an independent Ghanaian take down of a pirated vessel in 2015.

-Interagency coordination: During the course of operations interagency coordination and synchronization resulted in the successful location, tracking, monitoring and hand off of MT Maximus - Maritime Patrol reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) support (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E) -Comms between (b) (7)(E) U.S. Embassy, WNC MOC, ENC MOC, and SPD were outstanding. APAN Chat was instrumental to communicate with Ghana Navy for status updates of Maximus position and their Navy vessels position.

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

-Handoff to Ghana Navy worked well and Maximuss location was know at all times during its transit through the Ghana EEZ.

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Declassified by: D. W. DWYER
Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

(b) (6)

From:

(b) (6)

Sent:

Saturday, February 13, 2016 3:11 PM

To:

(b) (6)

Cc:

(b) (6)

Subject:

RE: (S) SPD Daily Quad - 12Feb16

Classification: ~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED

(b) (6)

(b)(1)

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Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

V/r,

(b)

(b) (6)

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Declassified on: 2 NOV 17
Declassified by: D. W. DWYER
Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

(b) (6)

From:

(b) (6)

Sent:

Saturday, February 13, 2016 10:57 AM

To:

(b) (6)

Cc:

(b) (6)

Subject:

RE: (S) SPD Daily Quad - 12Feb16

Classification: ~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED

(b) (6),

Strong work out there by all...

BT

Back in the saddle for a couple hours at HQ and then I really do need to go finish packing for Ghana!

Watch floor here had no positive confirmation any Ghanaian vessels actually got u/w yesterday. Do you have any indicators on your end? We queried for an HF freq for you to coordinate on and got a resounding no (all caps) via APAN, but at least the MOC is up now for coms via that net... Didn't anticipate this mission, but for next phase agreeing to an

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Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

HF coordination frequency in the event of a repeat of this scenario during in port coordination up front would be value added if it was not on your A-list yet.

Going over to NIPR to catch up now.

W/r,

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:24 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: SPD Daily Quad - 12Feb16

Classification: SECRET UNCLASSIFIED

(b) (6),

Acknowledge and will comply with priorities and authorizations as directed by CNE/CNA/C6F wrt current tasking.

Commander Naval Operations in Sekondi requested SPD assistance in the search for M/T MAXIMUS. VOI (M/V (b) (7) (E)) reportedly attacked and took control of M/T MAXIMUS (tanker carrying refined oil products) off the Ivory Coast 112100ZFEB16 (b) (7)(E)

SPD will locate and monitor M/T MAXIMUS as it transits through Ghanaian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and relay information to Ghanaian MOC. 13 of 18 crew members escaped to a safe room onboard to include the Captain who is relaying information off the ship.

Our intent is to (b) (1), (b) (7)(E) locate and verify position of MAXIMUS and (b) (7)(E).

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Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

-VMS operational picture indicates several F/V underway in the Ghana OPAREA.

-Coordination of Partner Nation Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) support: (b) (7)(E)

APS

-SPD operations to be conducted ISO Ghana Navy in search of M/T MAXIMUS -Prepared to conduct search and rescue operations -Prepared to conduct SOLAS operations for any persons in distress (b) (7)(E)

(b)(1)

OTHER

(b)(1)

(b) (1), (b) (6)

AMLEP Mission Objectives:

Objective 1: Enhance Partner Nations (PN) Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) capability in Territorial Seas (TTS) and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

Objective 2: Increase PN interoperability and capacity for MLE in TTS and EEZ.

Objective 3: PNs detect and respond to illicit activity to include illegal fishing and illicit trafficking in their TTS and EEZ.

ENDSTATE: African PN and regional MLE capabilities are increased, MOC/MDA capacities and interoperability are improved, and PNs execute maritime security and law enforcement operations in their TTS and EEZs in a professional manner.

V/r,

(b)

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Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

(b) (6)



(b) (6)



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USNS SPEARHEAD (T-EPF 1)



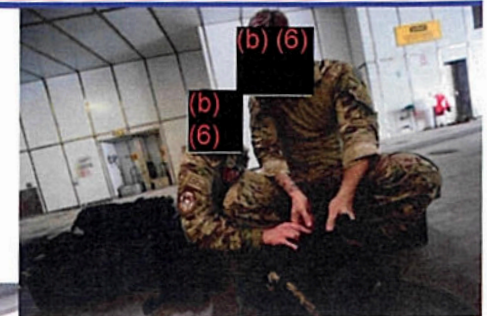
12 FEB 2016

Last 24 Hours

- U/W OJR (Patrol Ghana Op Area: TTS/EEZ)
 - Transiting to intercept M/T Maximus per Ghana MOC request
 - Maritime Law Enforcement Ops
 - Advise and assist Ghanaian LE personnel wrt Operational Preparation of the Environment (OPE)

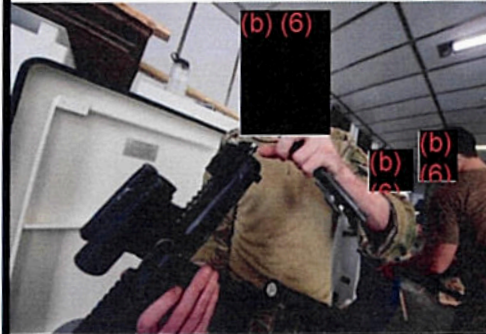
GULF OF GUINEA (Feb. 12, 2016) -

(b) (6) a U.S. Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Detachment member, conducts weapons checks aboard USNS Spearhead (T-EPF 1)



GULF OF GUINEA (Feb. 12, 2016) -

(b) (6) U.S. Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Detachment member, assists (b) (6) in conducting gear checks aboard USNS Spearhead (T-EPF)



Next 24 - 48 Hours

- U/W OJR (Patrol Ghana Op Area: TTS/EEZ)
 - Intercept M/T Maximus to monitor/relay information to Ghana MOC IAW CNE/CNA/C6F Priorities and Authorizations
 - Advise and assist Ghanaian LE personnel wrt Operational Preparation of the Environment (OPE)

CTF 63 Comments

- 13 FEB – 14 FEB U/W OJR
- 14 FEB – 17 FEB Sekondi, GH (AMLEP, Hotwash, Closing Ceremony, Press Conf, KLE)
- CTF 63 CDRE will provide remarks at Closing Ceremony and Press Conference 16 FEB

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Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

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USNS SPEARHEAD (T-EPF 1)

12 FEB 2016

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (6)

(b) (1)

(b) (7)(E)

(b)
(7)
(E)

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Declassified by: D. W. DWYER
Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

(b) (6)

From:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent:

Saturday, February 13, 2016 11:22 PM

To:

(b) (6)

Cc:

(b) (6)

Subject:

SPD Daily Quad - 13Feb16

Attachments:

SPD_DAILY_13FEB16.ppt

Classification: ~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED
DCOM,

At ~2300 last night (b) (7)(E) we were on intercept course for
VOIs (M/T MAXIMUS and (b) (7)(E)). We closed position (b) (1), (b) (7)(E) over night to track and monitor contacts. Based
on dead reckoning of last known position, course and speed the two contacts had trend analysis indicative of being

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MAXIMUS and (b) (7)(E). One of the contacts (what we assume was (b) (7)(E)) increased speed and opened range from contact believed to be MAXIMUS. (b) (7)(E) tanker resembled the physical characteristics of MAXIMUS. We closed CPA today (b) (7)(E) but never gained POS VID. Based on imagery, visual characteristics and behavior of VOI we have a high confidence factor that the vessel is MAXIMUS.

No communications were ever attempted with MAXIMUS. Of note, the vessel did come to all stop for 30 minutes at ~1040Z. We slowly continued to close range (b) (1), (b) (7) before MAXIMUS resumed course and speed.

(b) (1), (b) (7)(E)

SPD will break contact NLT midnight and continue as planned to conduct port visit in Sekondi, GH ISO GHANA AMLEP closing ceremony.

-Coordination of Partner Nation Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) support: (b) (7)(E)

APS

-Located (with high confidence factor), tracked and monitored M/T MAXIMUS.

CASREP

(b) (1)

OTHER

(b) (1)

AMLEP Mission Objectives:

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CNE-CNA-C6F

Objective 1: Enhance Partner Nations (PN) Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) capability in Territorial Seas (TTS) and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

Objective 2: Increase PN interoperability and capacity for MLE in TTS and EEZ.

Objective 3: PNs detect and respond to illicit activity to include illegal fishing and illicit trafficking in their TTS and EEZ.

ENDSTATE: African PN and regional MLE capabilities are increased, MOC/MDA capacities and interoperability are improved, and PNs execute maritime security and law enforcement operations in their TTS and EEZs in a professional manner.

V/r,

(b)

(6)



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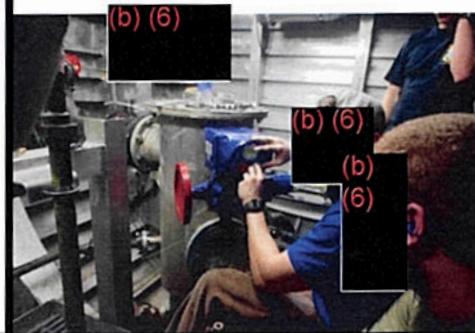
USNS SPEARHEAD (T-EPF 1)

13 FEB 2016

Last 24 Hours

- U/W OJR (Patrol Ghana Op Area: (b) (7)(E))
 - Intercepted/shadowed vessel matching profile of pirated M/T Maximus, (b) (7)(E)
 - Maritime Law Enforcement Ops
 - Advise and assist Ghanaian LE personnel wrt Operational Preparation of the Environment (OPE)

GULF OF GUINEA (Feb. 12, 2016) - (b) (6)
r opens a valve for the strainer while inspecting a fire pump aboard USNS Spearhead (T-EPF 1)



GULF OF GUINEA (Feb. 13, 2016) - USNS Spearhead (T-EPF 1) tracks and conducts surveillance on MT MAXIMUS that was pirated 11 Feb, 2016.

Next 24 - 48 Hours

- Coordinate and conduct turnover of M/T Maximus to Ghana Navy PB
- Arrive Sekondi, Ghana to conclude AMLEP and Closing Ceremony

CTF 63 Comments

- 14 FEB – 17 FEB Sekondi, GH (AMLEP, Hotwash, Closing Ceremony, Press Conf, KLE)
- CTF 63 CDRE will provide remarks at Closing Ceremony and Press Conference 16 FEB

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CNE-CNA-C6F



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USNS SPEARHEAD (T-EPF 1)

13 FEB 2016

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (6)

[REDACTED]

(b) (1)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

[REDACTED]

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Chief of staff
CNE-CNA-C6F

(b) (6)

From:

(b) (6)

Sent:

Sunday, February 14, 2016 4:00 PM

To:

(b) (6)

Cc:

(b) (6)

Subject:

SPD Daily Quad - 14Feb16

Attachments:

SPD_DAILY_14FEB16.ppt

Classification: ~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED
DCOM,

(b) (7)(E)

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(b) (7)(E)

Terminated tracking/surveillance operations on MT Maximus at ~2330 last night and proceeded to port Sekondi as scheduled. (b) (7)(E) received confirmation from Eastern Naval Command early this morning that Naa Gbewaa had intercepted MT Maximus and has conducted query. Pirates have changed MT Maximus vessel name to MT Elvins 5. (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

APS

- Terminated track, monitor, and surveillance operations on M/T MAXIMUS.
- Conducted turnover of MT Maximus to Ghana Navy -In port Sekondi, GH

CASREP

(b) (1)

OTHER

(b) (1)

AMLEP Mission Objectives:

- Objective 1: Enhance Partner Nations (PN) Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) capability in Territorial Seas (TTS) and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).
- Objective 2: Increase PN interoperability and capacity for MLE in TTS and EEZ.
- Objective 3: PNs detect and respond to illicit activity to include illegal fishing and illicit trafficking in their TTS and EEZ.

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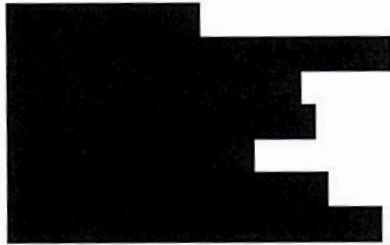
Declassified on: 2 NOV 17
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CNE-CNA-C6F

ENDSTATE: African PN and regional MLE capabilities are increased, MOC/MDA capacities and interoperability are improved, and PNs execute maritime security and law enforcement operations in their TTS and EEZs in a professional manner.

V/r,

(b)

(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the official.

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USNS SPEARHEAD (T-EPF 1)

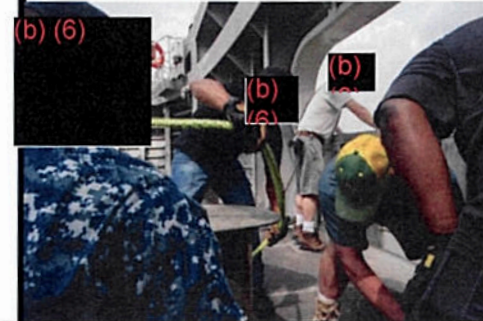


Last 24 Hours

- Coordinated and conducted turnover of M/T Maximus to Ghana Navy
- Arrive Sekondi, Ghana

14 FEB 2016

SEKONDI, Ghana (Feb. 14, 2016)
- Civil service mariners and Sailors
work together to heave a mooring
line aboard USNS Spearhead
(T-EPF1)



SEKONDI, Ghana (Feb. 14, 2016) -
(b)(6) stands watch as a member of
the embarked security team aboard
USNS Spearhead (T-EPF 1).

Next 24 - 48 Hours

- Inport Sekondi, Ghana to conclude AMLEP and Closing Ceremony

CTF 63 Comments

- 15 FEB – 17 FEB Sekondi, GH (AMLEP, Hotwash, Closing Ceremony, Press Conf, KLE)
- CTF 63 CDRE will provide remarks at Closing Ceremony and Press Conference 16 FEB

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Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F



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USNS SPEARHEAD (T-EPF 1)



14 FEB 2016

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

• (b) (7)(E)

(b) (6)

(b) (7)(E)

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Chief of Staff
CNE-CNA-C6F



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AMLEP – Operation JUNCTION RAIN

Last 24 Hours

13 Feb 2016

Current Status: Under Way

O/S Weather: 80F, seas 2ft, winds 191@14kt,
6nm vis

- Hails/Queries (Last 24hr / Total): 1/3
- Boardings (Last 24hr / Total): 0/2
- Vessels of Interest: M/T MAXIMUS and (b) (7)(E)
- MPRA Support: None forecasted



Future Outlook

13-Feb	14-Feb	15-Feb	16-Feb
Patrol Ghana TTS/EEZ	PVST SEKONDI	PVST SEKONDI	PVST SEKONDI

- U/W in Gulf of Guinea, investigating piracy case
- Shadow M/T MAXIMUS, pass POSIT info to Ghana for endgame

CTF 63 Comments

- Operation JUNCTION RAIN: 30 Jan – 15 April
- Ghana Stage: 30 Jan – 17 Feb
 - Port Visit Sekondi, Ghana 14 – 17 Feb
 - Tema Joint Fisheries Enforcement Unit (JFEU) providing VMS pictures
 - F/V Panofi Discoverer queried, not boarded due to embarked Ghana Observer, and video cameras onboard

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AMLEP – Operation JUNCTION RAIN

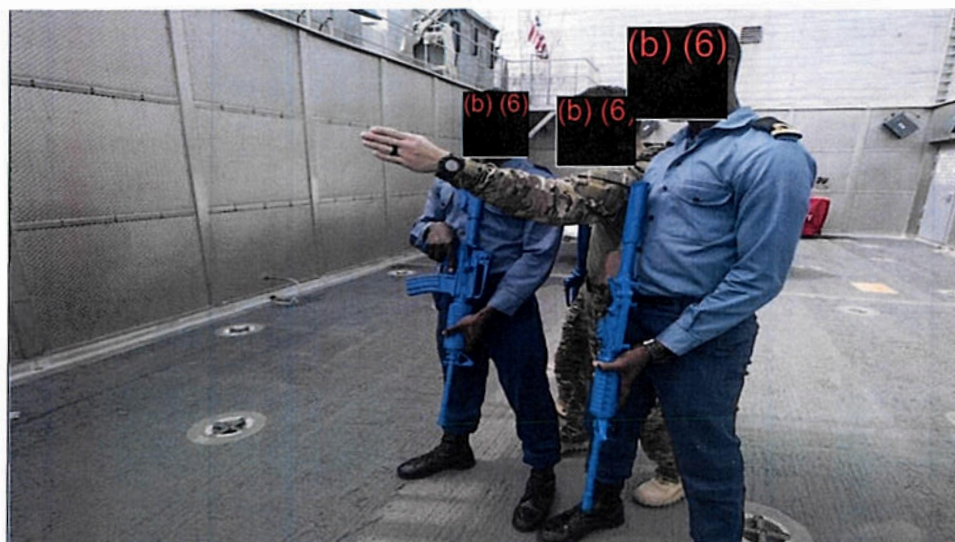
Last 24 Hours

14 Feb 2016

Current Status: Under Way

O/S Weather: 86F, seas 3ft, winds 205@14kt,
5nm vis

- Hails/Queries (Last 24hr / Total): 0/3
- Boardings (Last 24hr / Total): 0/2
- Vessels of Interest: M/T MAXIMUS and (b) (7)(E)
- MPRA Support: None forecasted



Future Outlook

14-Feb	15-Feb	16-Feb	17-Feb
PVST SEKONDI	PVST SEKONDI	PVST SEKONDI	Depart Sekondi

- U/W in Gulf of Guinea, monitoring piracy case
- Disembark Ghana LEMSN, hotwash, closing ceremony

CTF 63 Comments

- Operation JUNCTION RAIN: 30 Jan – 15 April
- Ghana Stage: 30 Jan – 17 Feb
 - SPD shadowing pirated vessel M/T Maximus, coordinating with Ghana Navy for turn over of coverage to Ghana Naval vessels
- Port Visit Sekondi, Ghana 14 – 17 Feb
- U/W from Sekondi, en route Douala, Cameroon 17 Feb

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AMLEP – Operation JUNCTION RAIN

15 Feb 2016

Last 24 Hours

Current Status: Inport Sekondi, Ghana

Weather: 86F, Seas 3ft, Winds 250 @ 6kt, 4NM vis

- Hails/Queries (Last 24hr / Total): 0/3
- Boardings (Last 24hr / Total): 0/2
- Vessels of Interest: None
- MPRA Support: None



Future Outlook

15-Feb	16-Feb	17-Feb	18-Feb
PVST Sekondi	PVST Sekondi	Depart Sekondi	Transit to Douala

- Conclude Ghana stage of OJR:
 - Disembark Ghana LE personnel
 - Hotwash
 - Closing Ceremony
 - Press conference

CTF 63 Comments

- Operation JUNCTION RAIN: 30 Jan – 15 April
- Ghana Stage: 30 Jan – 17 Feb
 - SPD broke off shadowing M/T MAXIMUS to meet operational req. Ghana Navy patrol vessels en route to shadow M/T MAXIMUS
 - Port Visit Sekondi, Ghana 14 – 17 Feb
 - U/W from Sekondi, en route Douala, Cameroon 17 Feb
 - Next daily SITREP on 17 Feb

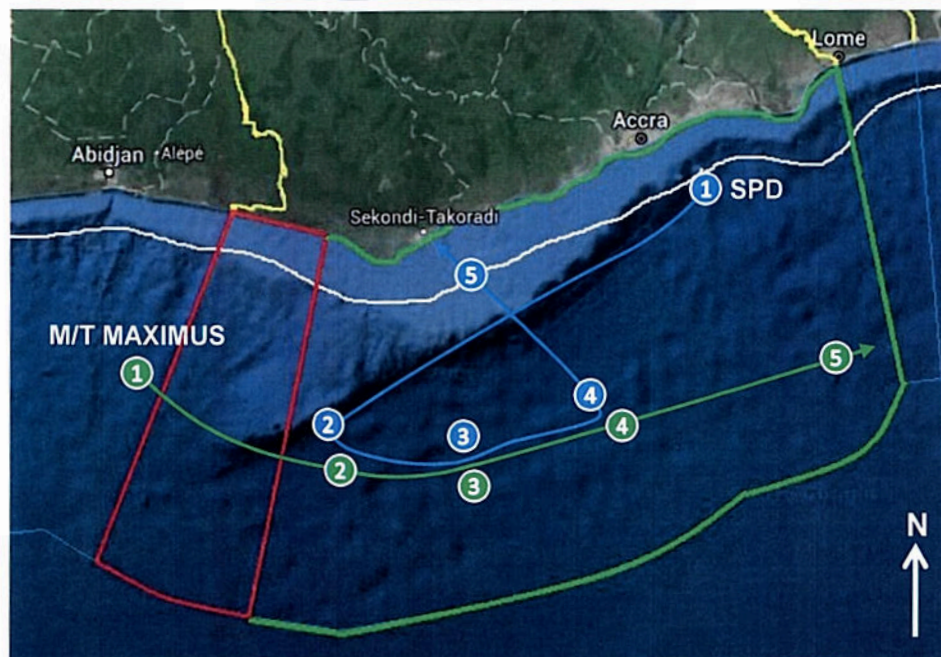
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M/T MAXIMUS Piracy Case in Gulf of Guinea USNS SPEARHEAD

12-14 FEB 2016



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

CTF 63 received notification that the Motor Tanker (M/T) MAXIMUS had been pirated off Cote d'Ivoire. Ghana Navy requested SPEARHEAD (SPD) respond.

- 1 121312Z FEB 16: SPD directed to locate M/T MAXIMUS. Ghana's Joint Fisheries Enforcement Unit coord w/ Ghana Navy for interagency response.
- 2 130047Z FEB 16: SPD intercepted M/T MAXIMUS and shadowed overnight (b) (7)(E). Without warning, M/T MAXIMUS came to all stop for 30 minutes before continuing to motor at 6kts on course toward Nigeria.
- 3 131230Z FEB 16: At 3.02NM CPA to M/T MAXIMUS, SPD attempted Visual ID (VID) which confirmed vessel characteristics to open source photo with high probability. Ghana Navy sortied two patrol vessels to track vessel.
- 4 140037Z FEB 16: SPD left scene to complete AMLEP events ashore, cuing turned over to Ghana naval vessels.
- 5 140940Z FEB 16: Ghana Navy patrol vessel on scene with M/T MAXIMUS, queried vessel and found pirates changed vsl name to "ELVINS 5". (b) (7)(E)

M/T MAXIMUS
Open Source Photo



(b) (7)(E)

Tasked in support of AMLEP's Operation JUNCTION RAIN, SPD was requested by the Ghana Navy to find and intercept M/T MAXIMUS, hijacked 112000ZFEB16 by six pirates 76NM south of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The pirates intend to siphon off the vessel's cargo of refined petroleum to another vessel at sea. M/T MAXIMUS has a crew of 18, 13 of which are in the ship's citadel (safe room) with the remaining five crew held by pirates.

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